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SOURCE Subook Sinmun. [North Korean refugee paper]

KOREAN REDS SHUT OFF
NEWSPAPER FLOW TO SOUTH

NORTH KOREANS TIGHTEN NEWSPAPER CONTROL -- Subook Sinmun, 19 Sep 49

The North Korean Reds recently tightened newspaper circulation through a new control system to prevent newspaper flow to the south.

It is well known to the people along the 38th Parallel and to all North Koreans, that nearly all newspapers published in North Korea are Communist controlled. In the past, tens of thousands of North Korean papers were dumped along the parallel for free distribution to the border residents and for propaganda in South Korea. However, the Communists not only stopped sending their papers to the South, but recently they stopped the free circulation altogether, so that not a single copy can be seen along the border area.

It appears that the Communists are attempting to hide something behind the iron curtain, possibly some secret plans and exploitation of their people, which they fear may be detected in their papers by the outside world.

As of September, the North Korean Communists have effected a new system for rigid control of newspaper circulation, to limit the circulation to Communist members only. The man who delivers the paper obtains the recipient's signature for receipt of the paper and picks up the issue of the previous day. This process is repeated every day and a paper is handed out only in exchange for the previous issue. Newspapers are distributed only through these established channels

WOUNDED SOLDIERS CROWD HOSPITALS -- Subook Sinmun, 19 Sep 49

Recently, all hospitals in North Korea, including the Sariwon, as well as private and the so-called people's hospitals, have been reported excessively overcrowded with the wounded soldiers of the People's Army as a result of repeated defeats in the battles with the National Army along the 38th Parallel. Civilian medical care is neglected and in many instances civilians are driven out of hospitals to make room for soldiers.

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The acute shortage of both hospitals and doctors is being met by accommodating patients in schools and public assembly halls, and by mobilizing all available doctors, even those from remote hamlets. These doctors are usually incompetent.

REDS MISTREAT WORKERS -- Subook Sinmun, 19 Sep 49

Numerous incidents have been reported from North Korea that farmers and workers, allegedly the groups most protected by the Reds, are being mistreated by the North Korean Communists.

Recently, many workers were forced to work in the construction of a new building for the West Pyongyang Telephone Bureau. Construction of the building began early last April and was scheduled for completion by 20 October. As of 19 September, the work was only 40 percent complete. In fear of punishment for his personal responsibility for the delay, Superintendent Choe Chong-so hastened the project by forcing, through threat and coercion, overtime work on the laborers. Any complainant was branded as a reactionary.

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